

U. S. WAITING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PERSIA SINKING—U. S. CONSUL LOST

Washington, Jan. 3. — Official Washington awaits further information regarding the sinking of the British liner Persia. Worst fears were practically realized in the death of American Consul Rob't N. McNeely and news that attack was made without warning, but U. S. is not yet in position to act.

State dep't officials declared it entirely probable Austria or Germany will anticipate an American protest or ultimatum by voluntarily disavowing the Persia's attack and giving ironbound guarantees for future observance of international law.

Alexandria, Jan. 3.—Surviving officers of British liner Persia landed at this port declare positively today that the steamer was torpedoed and ridiculed idea that mine might have sent vessel to the bottom with loss of probably more than 250 lives.

Second officer declared he saw a white streak—the wake of a torpedo—on the port side just before the explosion. No survivor has been found who saw submarine, but Persia's officers declared a mine, if struck a glancing blow by the ship's side, would not have torn a gap that would have sent her to the bottom in a few minutes.

"There was no panic," said Leonard Moss, one of the British survivors. "The heavy loss of life was due to two things, the fact that the Persia sank in less than six minutes and the fact that most of the passengers were at luncheon when the ship struck.

"No one was thinking of submarines. We were steaming along at about 18 knots when we were struck. First we heard a dull boom, then a funny cracking sound. It seemed only a second before the ship began to list.

"Those of us on deck rushed for the boats. The crew could not do

anything with the boats on the starboard because of the heavy list.

"People came running up from below, women and children crying, but there wasn't any wild screaming and they seemed pretty cool.

"The first two boats got away all right. The next one rolled over as it hit the water. There were a lot of women in this boat. One of the first boats launched tried to pick them up. The waves kept bumping the boat against the steamer's side, threatening to capsize her, and she had to pull away. The next two boats seemed to get away all right and got cleared just a minute or two before the Persia went down."

Moss, with several other survivors, was washed off the deck by huge waves that swept sinking liner a moment before she took death plunge.

London, Jan. 3. — Consul General Skinner today cabled American consul at Alexandria to obtain at once detailed statement of sinking of British liner Persia from Charles B. Grant of Boston, believed to be only American survivors.

Accurate statements of number of lives lost were still unavailable today, though it is known that survivors number between 155 and 160.

Despite press reports from Alexandria declaring no panic occurred aboard sinking liner, shipping men pointed out that much larger portion of crew than of passengers was saved. Only 59 of 241 passengers were among survivors; 94 of crew of 150 to 200 were saved.

Only 17 of 87 women passengers and only two of 30 children aboard Persia are included among survivors landed at Alexandria by warship.

London. — British steamer Glen-gyle sunk by submarine. About 100 rescued.

London.—Japanese steamer Kenkon Maru sunk by submarine. Crew saved.